

The EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 State of Play

**National Focal Point Workshop
14-16 October 2019**

Árni Páll Árnason, Deputy Director and Head of the Country and Bilateral Department

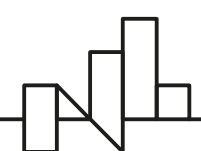
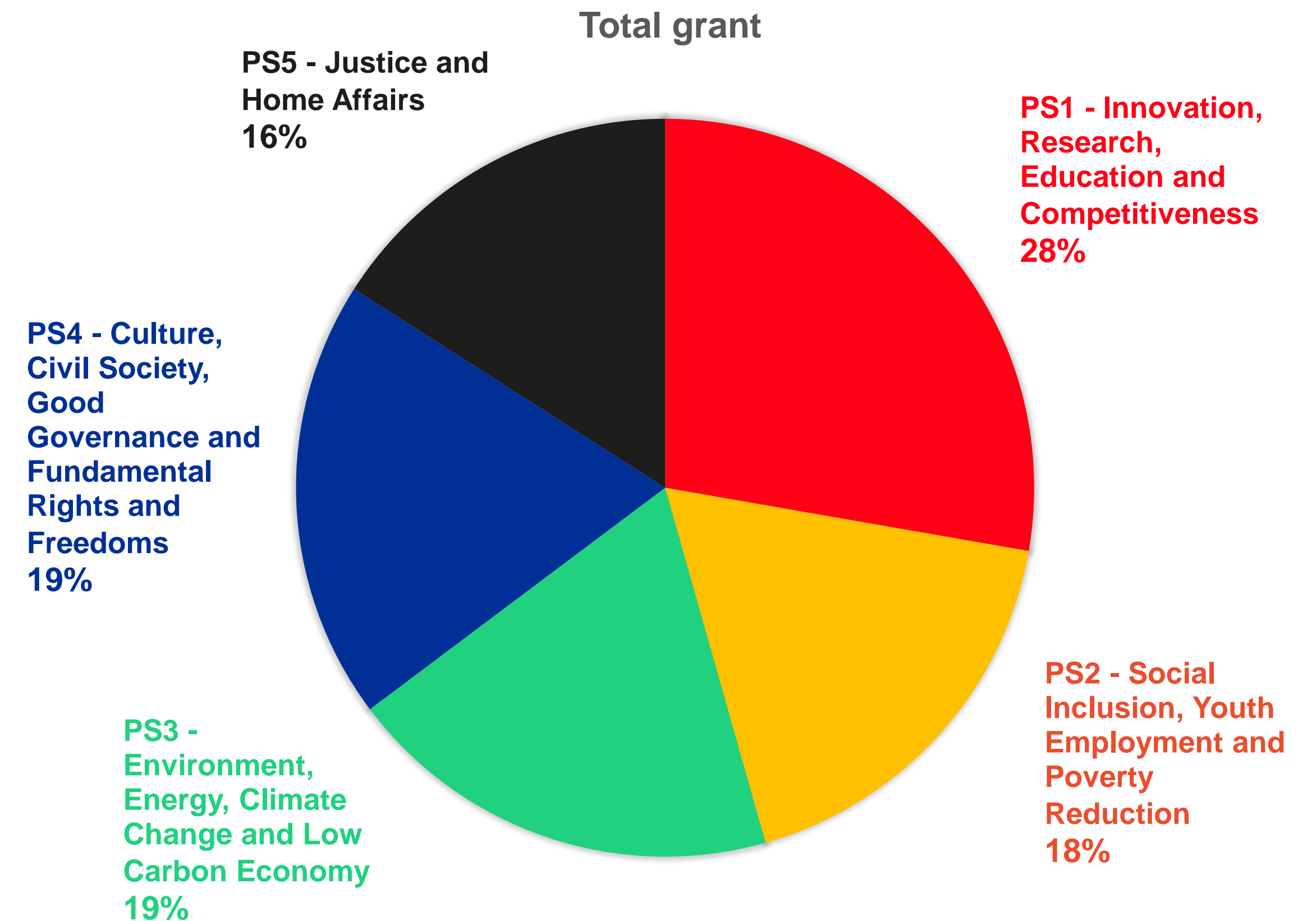
Tori Hoven, Head of the Programmes Department

Financial Mechanism Office

14.10.2019

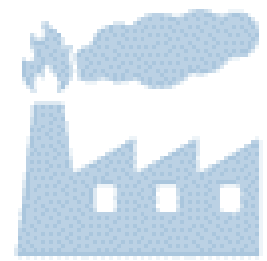
Working together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe

Priority Sector	Total grant
PS1 - Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness	593 mill
PS2 - Social Inclusion, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction	382 mill
PS3 - Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy	409 mill
PS4 - Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms	412 mill
PS5 - Justice and Home Affairs	341 mill
Grand Total	2,136 mill

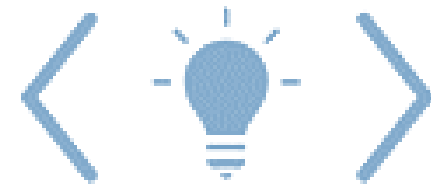


Expected results

Based on 63 programmes in 12 different countries developed so far, we expect:



1.4 mill tonnes of CO2 emissions saved



More than 300 new technologies/products developed



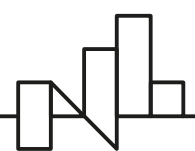
60,000 professionals trained



More than 800 small and medium-sized enterprises supported



1,845 jobs created



Expected results

Based on 63 programmes in 12 different countries developed so far, we expect:



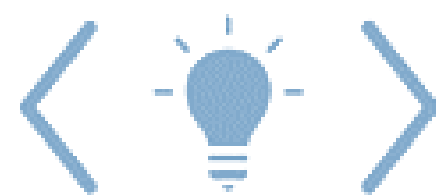
4,000 staff from beneficiary and donor states taking part in exchanges



1,400 students from beneficiary and donor states taking part in exchanges



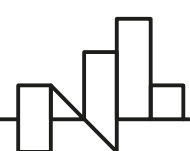
1,300 projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner



1,460 researchers supported



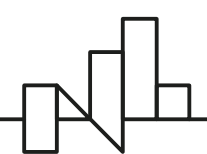
320 articles submitted for peer-review



Status overview

Status overview form 14 countries

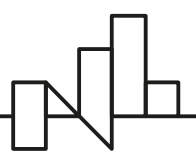
	P(I)As signed	P(I)As approved by donors	CN Appraised	CN in development	CN pre-phase
Total	70	1	93	0	3



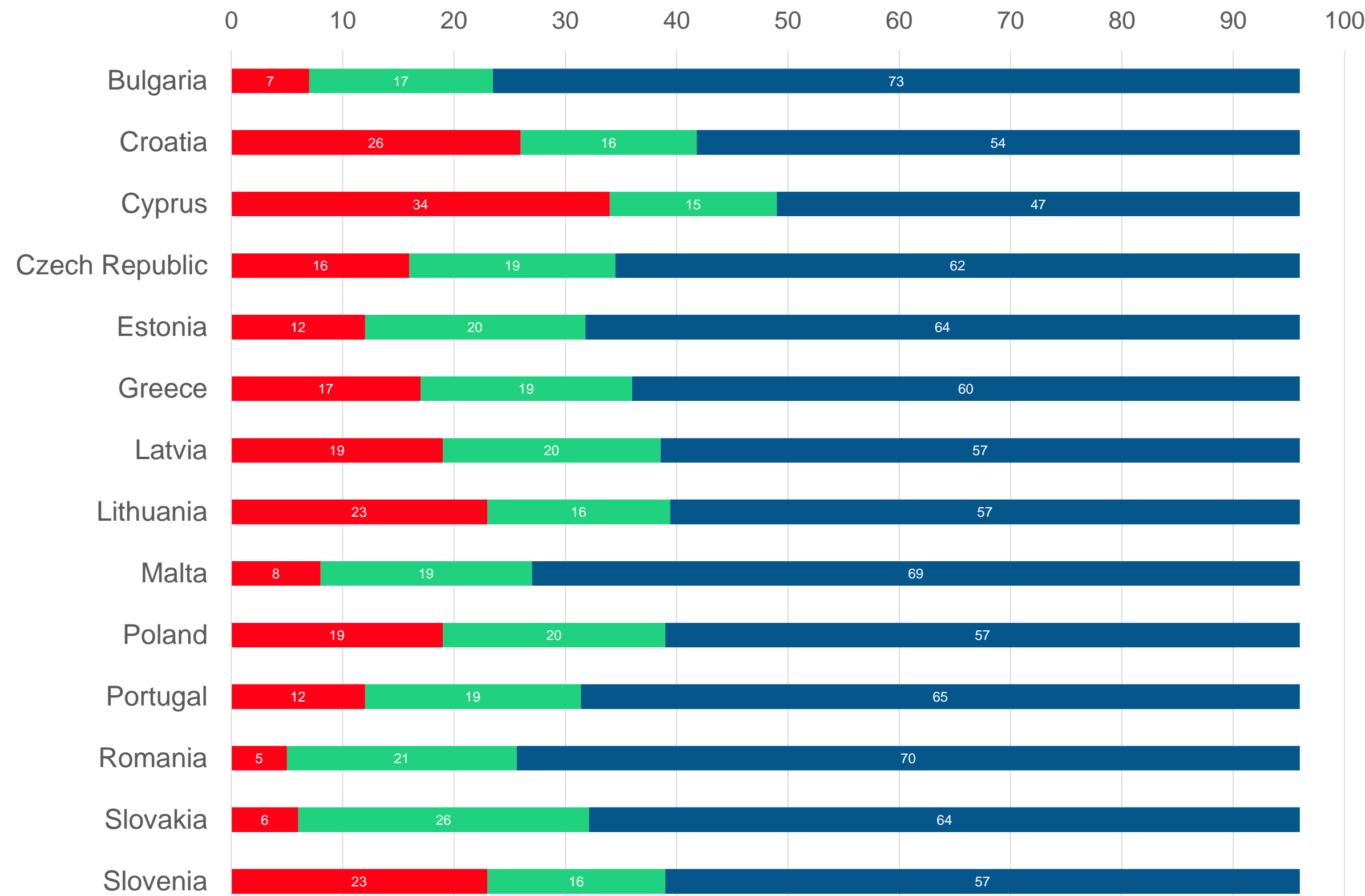
Phases

Phases for the 2009-2014 and the 2014-2021 financial mechanisms

- MoU negotiation phase
- Programme development phase
- Programme implementation phase



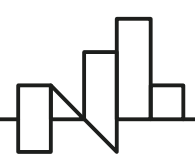
2014-2021 (expectations per August 2019)



2009-2014



- MoU negotiations phase (in months)
- Programme development phase (in months)
- Implementation phase (in months)



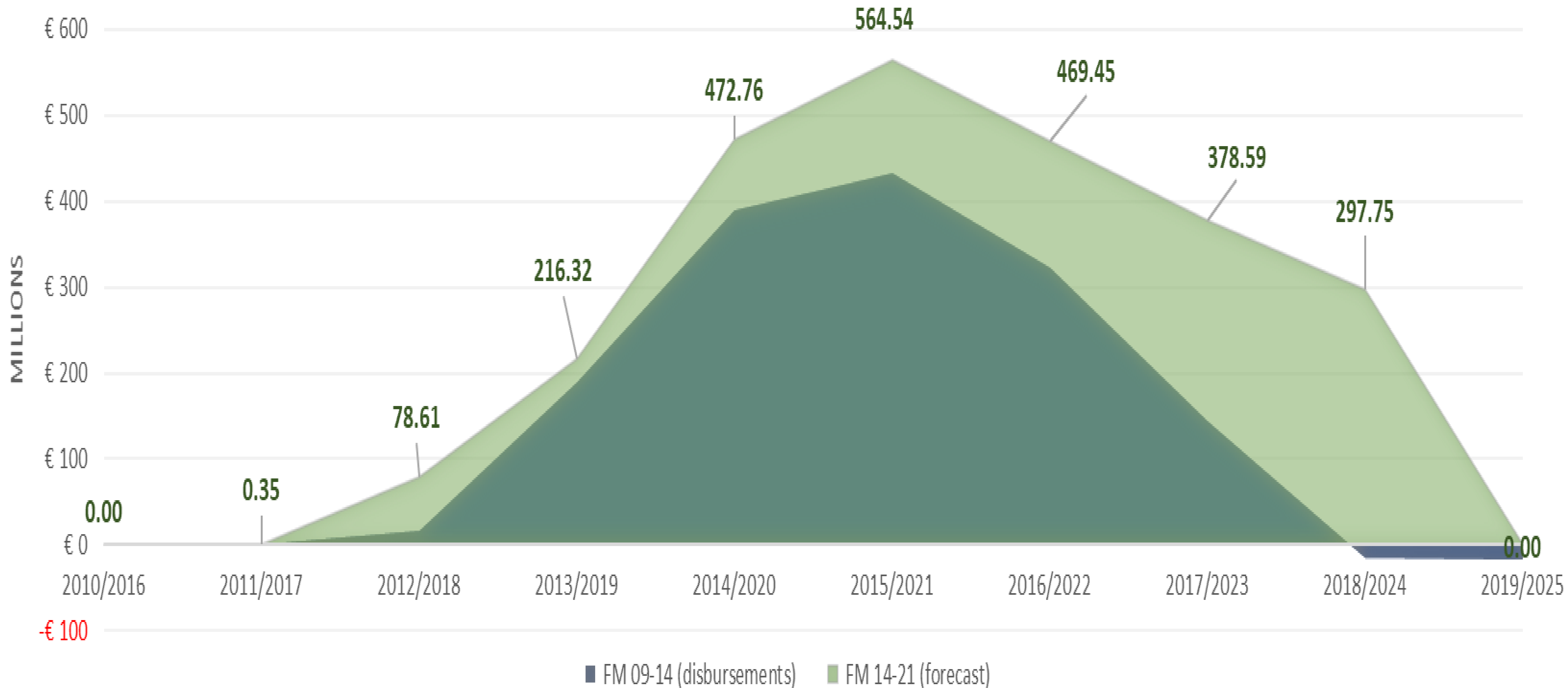
Mechanisms compared: 2009-2014 vs 2014-2021

- **From a five (2009-2014) to a seven (2014-2021) years financial mechanism: In practice 77 vs 96 months**
- **Increased focus on programme quality did not affect duration of programme development**
- **The duration of programme implementation is 19? months longer for 2014-2021**



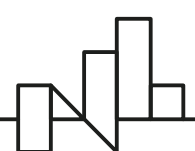
Disbursements to Beneficiary States -

Mechanisms 2009-2014 vs 2014-2021



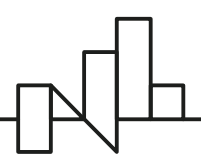
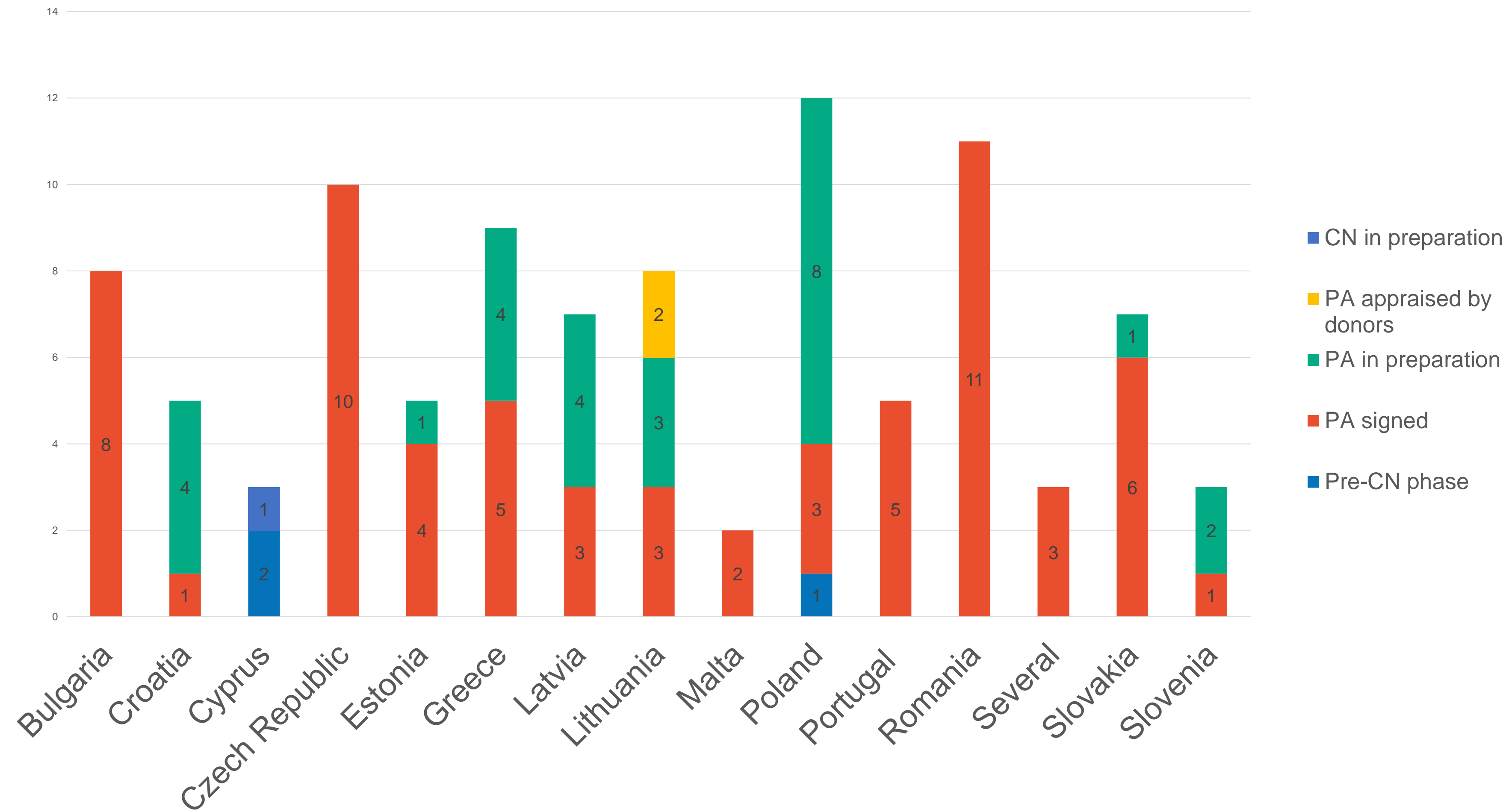
FMO as Programme Operator

- The duration for programme development (19 months) and implementation (62 months) is the same when FMO is the Programme Operator
- Fund Operators chosen through tendering requires additional time
- Time spent on programme development shorter than for programmes operated by Beneficiary States



Status of implementation

Status by Country



Bilateral Cooperation

- **JCBF** formally established in 13 BSs
- Bilateral Fund Agreements signed in 14 BSs
- Bilateral Work Plans finalised in 11 BSs (+ 2 currently being finalised)
- **Ca. 45%** (€ 22.6 million) of the Bilateral Funds (BF) already allocated to programmes and initiatives:
 - Approx. 60% of this amount is the allocation to programmes in the MoUs
 - A few programmes in 2 BSs have already received additional funds from the JCBF
 - At national level mainly to pre-defined initiatives, but a few BSs have opted for targeted or general open calls



National level allocations

Ca. 85 initiatives approved/proposed at national level through pre-defined initiatives and initiatives selected in open calls

77 have partners from Norway

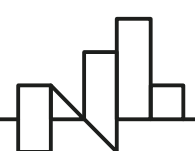
15 from Iceland

6 from Liechtenstein

Norway: All countries and sectors

Iceland: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Portugal and Malta - covering their priority areas of research, environment, work-life balance, social inclusion and gender equality

Liechtenstein: initiatives are restricted to their two priority countries, Czech Republic and Slovakia, with two additional initiatives proposed in Poland; covering the areas of culture, history and education.



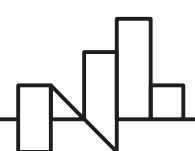
Programme-level allocations

- Funds allocated in the MoUs – or later – to programmes
- **Relatively few** programmes **approved/started implementing**
- **Some** programmes have already launched **open calls to facilitate bilateral partnerships** in the main programme calls
- The **implemented activities** so far have mainly focused on **programme preparation**
 - Matchmaking events, study trips, seminars, conference preparation
- FMO is planning to **follow up the mapping** of the use of the programme-level bilateral funds
- Functionality for reporting on bilateral initiatives operational in GrAce by early 2020



Some notable bilateral initiatives so far

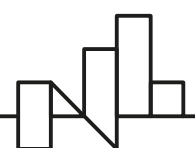
- PL: Events linked to European Forum for New Ideas (EFNI) - Polish Confederation „Lewiatan”
- RO: Seven conferences / seminars under the auspices of the Romanian EU Presidency
- PT: Event in Reykjavik on 31 October – 1 November: ”Gender Equality - A key for economic and social development in Europe and beyond Platform for co-operation, synergies, networking”
- CZ: Two major bilateral initiatives with Liechtenstein
 1. 7-year school exchange between the pupils of the “Liechtensteinische Gymnasium” in Vaduz and the “Matyas-Lerch Gymnasium” in Brno
 2. Activities of the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians



Mid-term review of EEA and Norway Grants

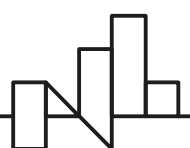
– legal basis

- **Protocol 38c, Art. 8:** *“A mid-term review shall be carried out by the EFTA States by 2020 with a view to redistributing any non-committed available funds within the allocations to the individual Beneficiary States concerned.”*
- **Regulations Art. 1.11:** *“The Donor States and the Beneficiary States shall in the MoU set aside a reserve, consisting of a minimum of 5% of the Beneficiary State’s total allocation. Not later than 31 December 2020, the Beneficiary State shall submit to the FMC a proposal on the allocation of the reserve within the framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, either in the form of a new programme or as an addition to an existing programme or programmes. The FMC shall decide on the allocation of the reserve in accordance with Article 6.3 or paragraph 6 of Article 6.9, as appropriate. The Donor States may waive the requirement for a reserve according to this paragraph.”*
- **MoU Art. 11.4:** *“4. No later than 31 December 2020, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding shall review progress in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and thereafter agree on reallocations within and between the programmes, where appropriate. The conclusion of this review shall be taken into account by the National Focal Point when submitting the proposal on the reallocation of the reserve referred to in Article 1.11 of the Regulation. “*



Mid-term review – practical implications

- The mid-term review is a **collaborative process** between the Donors and the Beneficiary States, with the aim of jointly reviewing the status of the implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants.
- It is the responsibility of the Beneficiary State to submit to the FMC a proposal for the allocation of the Reserve, as well as potential reallocations between or within programmes, by 31 December 2020 (with the exception of Cyprus and Hungary). These proposals shall be based on an assessment of the implementation of the programmes. BS with AM early in 2021 are encouraged to present their proposals by 1 October 2020.
- The decision on the allocation of the Reserve and possible reallocations, shall be made jointly By BS and DS, at the 2021 AM. An extraordinary AM might be necessary in some BS.
- There is no obligation for the Beneficiary States to conduct a full-fledged external mid-term evaluation of the entire programme portfolio.



Proposed tentative sequence of tasks

Task	Timing	Responsible
Template for BS assessment of programme portfolio developed and shared with all NFPs	By early 2020	FMO
BS assessment of progress, based on the template.	To be submitted to FMO first half 2020	NFP
Donor assessment of programme portfolio in each BS	First half of 2020, in parallel with BS assessment	FMO / Donors
Preliminary discussions on the assessments and possible discussion of formal proposals for (re-)allocations	Throughout 2020, depending on the timing of the Annual Meeting and the status of the mid-term review, these discussions can take place at the AM or other fora.	NFP and Donors
Formal submission of BS proposal for allocation of reserve	At the latest By 31 December 2020	NFP
Decision on the allocation of the Reserve, possible re-allocations between or within programmes, and the corresponding MoU changes	By mid-2021	NFP and Donors



Iceland 
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Thank you!

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